

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3302

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV'S APRIL 30 SPEECH AT ZIL FACTORY

1. ON THE DAY BEFORE THE MAY 1 HOLIDAY, BREZHNEV "MET" WITH WORKERS OF ZIL TRUCK PLANT AND DELIVERED A FATHERLY, PLATITUDINOUS TALK EXTOLLING VIRTUES OF WORK AND BRIGHT FUTURE OF SOCIALISM.

2. DOMESTIC POLICY. TALKING AS ONE WHO BEGAN HIS LIFE AS A SIMPLE WORKER IN A LARGE PLANT, BREZHNEV

-- NOTED THAT RENTS ON HOUSING HAVE HELD STEADY SINCE 1928. BECAUSE FUNDS FROM RENTS DO NOT COVER EVEN THIRD OF HOUSING COSTS, GOVERNMENT MAKES UP THE DIFFERENCE, AND WILL DO SO IN THE FUTURE;

-- ASKED INDULGENCE OF AUDIENCE IF HE SPOKE OF SHORT-COMINGS ON EVE OF HOLIDAY. EVEN ZIL, ONE OF THE BEST SOVIET PLANTS, ALLOWS DEFECTS TO CREEP INTO PRODUCTION AND THE PRODUCTION LINE TO BE INTERRUPTED BY DISRUPTIONS AND DELAYS. MOREOVER, PRESENT TRUCK MODELS MUST SOON BE REPLACED BY NEWER MODELS AND DEVELOPMENTAL WORK HAS BEEN LAGGING: "THIS WORK MUST BE SPEEDED UP, OR ITS RESULTS

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CAN COME TOO LATE, AND THE NEW MODEL WILL BE OBSOLETE

BEFORE IT COMES OFF THE PRODUCTION LINE;"

-- RECOGNIZED UNAVAILABILITY OF SPARE PARTS FOR ZIL TRUCKS
AND OTHER MODELS--ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREA--AND TERMED
SITUATION INADMISSIBLE.

3. FOREIGN POLICY. ALTHOUGH SPEECH WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY
DEVOTED TO DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, BREZHNEV NOTED IN HIS ONLY
BRIEF REFERENCE TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT PEACE WAS NECESSARY
IN ORDER TO BUILD A SOCIALIST SOCIETY, AND THAT EXTERNAL
CONDITIONS IN THIS REGARD WERE NEVER BETTER. INTERNATIONAL
TENSIONS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY REDUCED BY THE SOVIET
UNION'S COORDINATED ACTIONS WITH THE "SOCIALIST COMMON-
WEALTH," ITS "STRENGTHENING ALLIANCE WITH ALL WHO STRUGGLE
FOR PROGRESS AND FREEDOM OF PEOPLES," AND ITS "BUSINESS-
LIKE COOPERATION WITH PEACE-LOVING, REALISTIC CIRCLES" IN
THE CAPITALISTIC STATES.
STOESSEL

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